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SECRETARY LANE'S TIME LIMIT OF 30 DAYS IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

AND YET THE BOARD OF COST REVIEW HAS ACTED UPON BUT TWO MINOR QUESTIONS; SCHEDULE MAPPED OUT TO SEPTEMBER 4 BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY OF THE REAL BIG SUBJECTS; WHERE IS THE FAULT?

(By Benjamin Franklin Fly)

The board of cost review evidently had a "warm time" yesterday, not only because Judge Holgate had gone to Phoenix the night before on U. S. R. S. business and had telegraphed a large sized hunk of Salt River valley weather back here, but because the board had its doors locked, "discussing serious matters, among which is the question of our jurisdiction over the Indian lands," as Chairman Fleming tersely put it.

Putting two and two together, I can readily understand the significance of Chairman Fleming's 14-word statement.

It will be recalled that on last Saturday, Mr. Teasdale insisted upon presenting a Yuma Indian to the board of cost review in order that Gabriel (Hammond) might toot his horn to the extent of saying that he looked upon Mr. Teasdale as the "personal representative" of the Indians, and that he wanted Mr. Teasdale to represent his tribe in the same capacity in which he represents the Bardites.

It will also be recalled that Chairman Fleming very wisely ruled that if the Indians wanted to be heard before the board that they must appear through Indian Agent Odle, because of the legal fact that the Yuma Indians are "wards of the nation."

Likewise it will be recalled that Mr. Teasdale became very angry, and

even refused to notify Poor Lo of the chairman's ruling, whereupon Chairman Fleming performed that duty himself.

In order to appease the wrath of "the water users' member" it was agreed there and then, in open session, that a telegram be sent to the Indian department, at Washington, to ascertain whether or not that department understood that the Indian lands were to be reviewed by the board, and, if so, was it also understood that Mr. Teasdale was to appear as the personal representative of the Indians.

Quite a number of telegrams have been received by the board since last Saturday. Just what they contained I do not know. But I do know that one was delivered Tuesday in open board meeting, and, after being read by Chairman Fleming, he passed it, without comment, to Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Teasdale, whereupon the latter remarked:

"We will see about that tomorrow (yesterday) morning, in executive session."

In view of the fact that the board locked its doors all yesterday morning, and the additional fact that Chairman Fleming said they were "discussing serious matters, among which is the question of jurisdiction over the Indian lands," I can very readily see that the Indian department said "No!" in great, big letters—else why all this secrecy?

Mr. Teasdale is not a man of that type who crawls into a hole and pulls the hole in after him when he wins a victory, and it would be a big one, indeed, for him if he could reverse Chairman Fleming's ruling on this Indian question. But has he? Of that I have my very serious doubts.

The question now arises—and it's serious, too—if the Indian department has definitely decided that it can adjust all matters with the U. S. R. S., in which the Indians are interested, without the aid of a board of cost re-

view, WILL THE INDIANS BE TAXED ANYTHING TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION?

If not, then ALL THE COSTS WILL FALL ON THE "WHITE LANDS."

In that event, I can imagine how the Bardites will feel when they learn the truth! And then when they begin to figure that each man on the "white lands" is paying one dollar per day or more as long as the board lasts. I apprehend some of them, at least, will "go straight up in the air," and let out a very just yell that can be heard all the way to Washington. Possibly that's the reason Secretary Lane telegraphed that he wanted the board to conclude its labors 30 days from July 28, at which time Mr. Teasdale remarked that he "didn't propose to be circumscribed as to time by Secretary Lane or anybody else," or words to that exact effect.

Half of Secretary Lane's "time limit" has already passed, and what has been done? Out of all the questions that were submitted for consideration by Secretary Lane, BUT TWO have been acted upon—the placing of all Bar. units on the \$55 basis, instead of \$66, and the \$1.00 per acre per year for water, up to the time of accepting the 20-year extension act—and these two questions settled in favor of the Bardites UPON THE ADVICE OF JUDGE HOLGATE (if the board took his advice), the very man Mr. Teasdale so strenuously objects to. Funny, isn't it?

All the real, big questions still hang fire, because of Mr. Teasdale's objection to the "plan of procedure" outlined by Chairman Fleming a few days after the board was first organized. Indeed the "plan" had to go to Washington before Mr. Teasdale would "touch it with a forty-foot pole," just for why I have never been able to find out.

Late yesterday afternoon, however, upon the urgent recommendations of Mr. Teasdale, the board adopted a partial schedule, as follows:

Aug. 13-14, seepage and drainage.
Aug. 19-20-21, continuation of irri-gable area.
Aug. 23-24, executive session.
Aug. '25-26, S. P. contract and tele-phone system.
Aug. 27-28-30, distributing system.
Aug. 31, Sept. 2, carrying system.
Sept. 3-4, expert accountant's report.
NOT YET SET: PRELIMINARY SURVEYS, OVERHEAD CHARGES, LAGUNA DAM AND HEADWORKS, LEVEE, AND RIVER FRONT PRO-TECTION!

It will be seen that the real, big things, out of which all the millions are to be saved, are not yet definitely set for a hearing. It will also be seen from the dates that the time runs a

full week over the 30 days set by Secretary Lane.

I'll bet a good watermelon against a pumpkin that practically all of these questions will be settled—NOT BY THE PRESENT BOARD OF COST REVIEW for the "white lands of the Reservation unit, California side, of the Yuma project," but by the NEW BOARD OF COST REVIEW, to be appointed, and which will have full authority to review ALL THE LANDS OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT!

I'll bet another watermelon that the new board won't talk itself out of existence, either; but, that it will recommend that OVER FOUR AND A HALF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BE SAVED TO SETTLERS ON YUMA PROJECT!

And to make it real interesting, while the gambling mania now possesses me, I'll bet that 80-acre orange grape fruit and date farm on the mesa against a teaspoonful of silt that Mr. Everett Pat Teasdale isn't on the new board!

Who'll take the bet? I play no favorites. Come on boys! Watermelons and silt are the real "hot stuff!"

Gee, but what a "turning over" my good friend? the "extinguished" manager got at the hands of Mr. Teasdale yesterday afternoon! I'll venture the assertion that his ears burned so badly that he didn't sleep a wink last night. It all came about thusly:

Chief Clerk Stilson was instructed at Mr. Teasdale's request, to produce the letter files in "the Cook case." He did so very promptly, for both he and Acting Manager Priest have reached a point in their wild and reckless career when they have formed a real sweetheart-like fondness for "the water users' member". The correspondence consisted of a dozen or more letters, beginning with a complaint, filed by Mr. Cook (now dead, poor fellow) to the effect that his place had been ruined by seepage. He finally filed a petition containing the names of 32 unit holders bearing on the subject. The petition got to Washington, and after considerable correspondence, reached the "extinguished manager", with direct orders for him to cause an investigation. He at once detailed Mr. Kelly, the present irrigation manager, to start the ball a rolling. "The first thing 'Kelly with the green necktie' did was to call on those whose names were attached to the petition, and to his surprise he found a good many of them were spurious—had not been authorized. Then more letters to Washington by Mr. Cook. He was persistent and prolific. Further investigation developed the information that he was "bug-house." Just about that time three of the real "big guns" (Continued on Page eight)